

charges from the grill waving a butcher knife
at customers who complain
while we laugh
and to the last lick of grease
eat our plates clean

— Bill Rodriguez

Madison WI

A MATTER OF POSTURING

i tell you that there are at least
a thousand ways to sit in a hard-
backed chair and you challenge me,
ask me to demonstrate. but how
can i make you understand?

it's not possible, seeing that i'm
only one person and the chair has
become too familiar for objectivity.

CHRISTMAS CARDS

one of my chinese buddies
complains about how hard it is
to get christmas cards in richmond
that are written in chinese.

i tell him that i've never
been able to find one
that does the buddha justice,
though you'd think
it wouldn't be a problem
with that flowing smile
and bowling ball gut of his.

CONTINUING ED

she thinks of me as a bum
because i can't afford
fashionable clothes
and though i should
get a job
i want to go back to school
to get another master's degree

though the paper they're
printed on
rolled stiff
and shoved up her tight ass
wouldn't change her opinion
one iota.

LIQUID DIET

oprah winfrey's
fat again, cries
on the TV that liquid
diets simply won't
keep off the weight.

hell, mine's worked for
years — can't eat more
than a slice of white bread
some days, don't want to
on the others, with my
hangover and all.

— Eric Cash

Prestonsburg KY

THREE 1-LINE POEMS

how not to get directions in the Kensington section of
Philadelphia

ask

middle age

nose hairs growing faster than the rest of me

bisexual

a casual attitude toward the hole thing